

OST-98-4775

THE TRAVEL BUG OF BATTLE CREEK



TRAVEL BUG OF BATTLE CREEK, INC. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
1950 W. COLUMBIA
SUITE C
BATTLE CREEK, MI 49015

98 DEC -4 PM 1:25

DOCKET SECTION

47653

OST-98-4775-18

November 25, 1998

The Honorable Carl Levin
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Levin:

I am writing this letter to you as a constituent of yours and an owner of a travel agency.

The recent decision of major U.S. Airlines to cap commissions at \$100.00 on international airfares is just one more step in the airlines all-out assault to drive the travel agent from the marketplace. By forcing us from the marketplace, consumers will have no choice but to deal with the airlines directly through 800 numbers and the Internet. This will ultimately result in the consumer paying more money for their airline tickets. This fact was recently confirmed in the "20/20" television program which clearly illustrated that when you removed the travel agency from the scene, the airlines can over charge the consumer at will.

I am deeply concerned about what the airlines are doing to force the traveling public to deal directly with them through their 803 numbers and the Internet. The airlines do not want the public to have sources of unbiased information on airfares readily available to them. We, the travel agents, are the only ones who provide the consumer with complete and unbiased comparative fare and schedule information today.

The airlines' new commission policy simply fuels the fires of concern about the lack of airline competition in today's marketplace with its fortress hub system



THE TRAVEL BUG OF BATTLE CREEK

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and controls over the computer reservation systems. Please write the Secretary of Transportation and the Attorney General asking them to take the necessary steps to prevent these monopolistic practices of airlines from harming the travel consumer.

Sincerely,

John A. V'Soske
John A. V'Soske
Owner/Manager
(616) 964-7688

jav

cc Hon. Janet Reno
Hon Rodney Slater

OST-98-4775



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Travel Associates, Inc.

98 DEC 4 PM 1:25

DOCKET SECTION

P.O. Box 1608 • 301 E. Front St. • Statesville, NC 28677

Tel: 704/873-0512 • Fax: 704/873-5273

Mr. Rodney E. Slater
Secretary, US Department of Transportation
400 Seventh St, SW
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Slater:

I am writing to advise you of the recent action of several of the major airlines wherein they arbitrarily capped commission rates on international air flights and the effect that this action has on travel agents and the traveling public. This follows two prior commission cuts on domestic air travel and is part of a maneuver designed to eliminate travel agencies and thereby compel the public to deal directly with the airlines. In my opinion these actions are collusive and therefore illegal.

If, in time, the travel agencies are gone there will be no remaining source for unbiased travel information to the public. This is the airline's intention. Dealing directly with a single airline one is not likely to receive information on any but that carrier's operations. That a more convenient or less expensive **flight** may be available from another carrier will never be known to the consumer.

Removing the travel agencies and forcing purchases directly from the airlines will ultimately result in increased travel costs as was recently documented by the "20/20" television program. Such a scheme as the airlines envision will intensify the lack of competition among the airlines especially in their system of hubs where competition is already greatly diminished. It will also give them further advantages over the computer reservation systems which, for the most **part**, they own and control.

I hope you will investigate the probable effects of the airlines actions on the American public and take such steps as are available to protect them from the implementation of such monopolistic practices.

Very truly yours,
TRAVEL ASSOCIATES INC.

Patricia P. Clodfelter
Manager and Owner

November 25, 1998

Members of:

Association of Retail Travel Agents
Cruise Lines International Association
American Society of Travel Agents
Travel Agents of The Carolinas



OST-98-4775

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

98 DEC -4 PM 1:25

DOCKET SECTION

TOWNE AND COUNTRY TRAVEL

NOV 2, 1998

THE HONORABLE RODNEY SLATER
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON DC 205 15

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE SLATER:

I am writing this letter to you as a **constituent** of yours and an **owner** of a **travel agency**.

The recent **decision** of major **U.S. airlines** to cap commissions at \$100 on international **airfares** is just one more step in the airlines all-out assault to drive the travel agent **from the marketplace**. By forcing us **from the marketplace**, consumers will have no choice but to deal with the airlines directly through **800 numbers** and the **Internet**. This will ultimately result in the **consumer paying** more money **for** their airline tickets. This fact was recently confirmed in the "20/20" television program which clearly illustrated that when you removed **the travel agency** from the scene, the airlines can over charge the consumer at will,

I am deeply concerned about what the airlines are doing **to force** the traveling public to deal directly **with** them through their **800 numbers** and the **Internet**. The **airlines** do not want the public to have sources of unbiased information on **airfares** readily available to **them**. We, the travel agents, are the only **ones** who provide the **consumer** with complete and unbiased comparative fare and schedule **information** today.

The airlines' new commission policy **simply fuels** the fires of concern about the lack of airline competition in today's marketplace with its fortress hub system and **controls** over the computer reservation systems. Please write the Secretary of Transportation **and** the Attorney General asking them to take the necessary steps to prevent these monopolistic practices of **airlines** from **harming the travel consumer**,

Sincerely,

Jean Kochman

OST-98-4775

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

The Honorable Rodney Slater
Secretary of Transportation
US Dept. of Transportation
400 Seventh Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20590

98 DEC -4 PM 1:26
DOCKET SECTION

TSG TRAVEL INT'L
45 Middle Neck Road
Great Neck, NY 11021
516-466-4060

Nov. 25, 1998

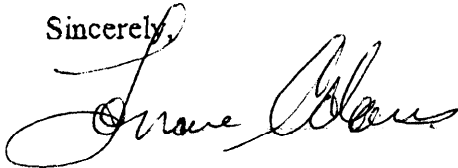
I am **writing** this letter to you as a constituent of yours and an **owner** of a travel agency.

The recent decision of major **U.S.** airlines to cap commissions at \$100 on international **airfares** is just **one** more step in the airlines all-out assault to drive the travel **agent** from **the** marketplace. By forcing **us** from the marketplace, consumers will have **no** choice but to deal with the **airlines** directly through 800 numbers and the Internet. This will **ultimately** result in the consumer paying more money for their airline tickets. This fact was recently **confirmed** in the "20/20" television **program** which clearly **illustrated** that when you removed **the** travel agency **from** the scene, the airlines can over charge the consumer at will,

I am deeply concerned about what the airlines are doing to **force** the traveling public to deal directly with them through their 800 **numbers** and the **Internet**. The **airlines** do not want the public to have sources of unbiased information on airfares **readily** available to them. We, the travel agents, **are** the only ones who provide **the** consumer with complete and unbiased comparative fare and schedule **information** today.

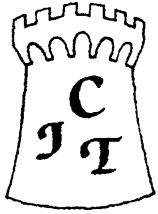
The airlines' new commission policy simply fuels the **fires** of concern about the lack of airline **competition** in today's **marketplace** with its fortress hub system and **controls** over the computer reservation systems. Please write the Secretary of Transportation and the Attorney General asking them to **take** the **necessary** steps to prevent these monopolistic practices of airlines **from** **harming** the travel consumer,

Sincerely,



Lorraine Adams
President of TSG Travel Int'l

OST-98-4775



Celtic International Tours

1860 Western Ave.
Albany, New York 12203
PH: (518) 862-1810
(800) 718-5525
FX: (518) 862-1817

November 23, 1998

The Honorable Rodney Slater
Secretary of Transportation
U. S. Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary of Transportation Slater:

I am writing this letter to you as a constituent of yours and as owner of Celtic International Tours.

The recent decision of major U.S. airlines to cap commissions at \$100.00 on international airfares is just one more step in the airlines all-out assault to drive the travel agent from the marketplace. By forcing us from the marketplace, consumers will have no choice but to deal with the airlines directly through 800 numbers and the Internet. This will ultimately result in the consumer paying more money for their airline tickets. This fact was recently confirmed in the "20/20" television program which clearly illustrated that when you remove the travel agency from the scene, the airlines can over charge the consumer at will.

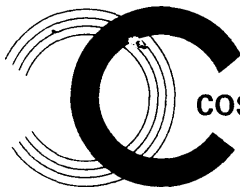
I am deeply concerned about what the airlines are doing to force the traveling public to deal directly with them through their 800 numbers and the Internet. The airlines do not want the public to have sources of unbiased information on airfares readily available to them. We, the travel agents, are the only ones who provide the consumer with complete and unbiased comparative fare and schedule information today. If airlines are allowed to continue reducing commissions, it will have an immediate negative effect on many thousands of travel related jobs in the United States.

The airlines' new commission policy simply fuels the fires of concern about the lack of airline competition in today's marketplace with its fortress hub system and controls over the computer reservation systems. Please write the Secretary of Transportation and the Attorney General asking them to take the necessary steps to prevent these monopolistic practices of airline from harming the travel consumer.

Sincerely,

Noel F. Murphy
President

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
98DEC-4 PM 1:26
DOCKET SECTION



COSMORAMA TOURS, LTD.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

98 DEC -4 PM 1: 26

DOCKET SECTION

OST-98-4775

1560 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10036

TEL: (212) 921-2372

FAX: (212) 391-4579



November 23, 1998



The Honorable Patrick Moynihan
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Senator Moynihan:

I am writing this letter to you as a **constituent** of yours and an **owner** of a travel agency.


The recent decision of major U.S. airlines to cap **commissions** at \$100.00 on international air fares is just one more step in the airlines all-out assault to drive the travel agent from the marketplace.

By forcing us from the marketplace, **consumers** will have no choice but to deal with the airlines directly through 800 numbers and the **Internet**. This will ultimately result in the consumer paying more money for their **airline tickets**. This fact was recently confirmed in the "20/20" television program which clearly illustrated that when you removed the travel agency from the scene, the airlines can over charge the consumer at will.

I am deeply concerned about what the airlines are doing to force the traveling public to deal directly with them through their **800 numbers** and the **Internet**. The airlines do not want the public to have sources of unbiased information on airfares readily available to them. We, the travel agents, are the only ones who provide the consumer with complete and unbiased comparative fare and schedule information today.

The airlines' new commission policy simply fuels the fires of concern about the lack of airline competition in today's marketplace with its fortress hub system and controls over the computer reservation system. Please write the Secretary of Transportation and Attorney General asking them to take the necessary steps to prevent these **monopolistic** practices of airlines from harming the travel consumer.

Sincerely,


Mike Katsandonis,
President

cc: The Honorable Janet Reno
Attorney General

cc: The Honorable Rodney Slater
Secretary of Transportation

OST-98-4775

Travel Discoveries

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

98 DEC -4 PM 1:26

DOCKET SECTION

INTERCONTINENTAL DISCOVERIES, INC.
1107 SWANN AVE., TAMPA FL 33606 U S A.

813-251-0961

FAX 813-254-1 406

Monday, November 23, 1998

The Honorable Bob Graham
United States Senate
524 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 205 15-09 11

Dear Senator Graham,

I am writing this letter to you as a constituent and an owner of a travel agency.

The recent decision of major U.S. airlines to cap commissions at \$100 on international airfares is just one more step in the airlines' all-out assault to drive travel agents from the marketplace. By forcing us from the marketplace, consumers have no choice but to deal with the airlines directly through 800 numbers and/or the Internet. This will ultimately result in the consumer paying more money for their airline tickets. This fact was recently confirmed in the "20/20" television program, which clearly illustrated that when you removed the travel agency from the scene, the airlines can overcharge the consumer at will.

I am deeply concerned about what the airlines are doing to force the traveling public to deal directly with them through their 800 numbers and the Internet. The airlines do not want the public to have sources of unbiased information on airfares readily available to them. We, the travel agents, are the only ones who provide the consumer with complete and unbiased comparative fare and schedule information today.

The airlines' new commission policy simply fuels the fires of concern about the lack of airline competition in today's marketplace with its fortress hub system and controls over the computer reservation systems. Please write the Secretary of Transportation and the Attorney General asking them to take the necessary steps to prevent these monopolistic practices of airlines from harming the traveling public.

Sincerely,

Mike Gruendel

Cc: The Honorable Janet Reno, Attorney General
The Honorable Rodney Slater, Secretary of Transportation